

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Thirty-five (35) claims (Claims 1-7, 9-14, and 23-44) remain pending in this application through this Amendment. Claim 8 has been cancelled, claims 15-22, and 45-46 have been withdrawn from consideration, and claims 1, 7, and 23 have been amended herein. No new matter has been introduced into the application. As explained in more detail below, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejection of Claims 1-14 and 23-44 under 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1-14 and 23-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,628,934 ("Pohnfort"). The Applicant traverses the rejection in view of the comments below.

Pohnfort teaches a cardiac pacing system having leads extending into the atrium and ventricle of a heart. (See Col. 1, ll. 8-16 and Col. 6, ll. 1-5). The disclosure of Pohnfort is limiting in two respects. First, the extension units disclosed in Pohnfort are either encased within or otherwise integrated to the impulse generator, such as through a socketing mechanism. They are not at a distance from the impulse generator. Second, the leads comprise an array of electrodes that a physician may activate or deactivate in accordance with the treatment plan. Pohnfort expressly teaches a cardiac pacemaker having switches that connect "an 'input' lead conductor to one of the 'output' conductors. (Col. 11, ll. 14-16, emphasis added). Indeed, applying simultaneous triggering electrode arrays in Pohnfort would simultaneously pulse the atrium and ventricle of the patient's heart, presumably leading to cardiac injury.

As to claims 1-6, the Office Action also cites Pohnfort as disclosing an extension unit coupled between an impulse generator and an implantable electrode array. The extension units disclosed in Pohnfort however, are either encased within or otherwise integrated to the impulse generator, such as through a socketing mechanism. Through this Response and Amendment, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to more distinctly claim an extension unit that is “distant from the implantable pulse generator relative to the electrode array.” Indeed, this feature serves the advantages of the invention as previously disclosed in the specification. Since Pohnfort does not teach or otherwise disclose an extension unit that is “distant from the implantable pulse generator relative to the electrode array,” the Applicant submits that claim 1 and dependant claims 2-6 are not anticipated by Pohnfort and therefore request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

With regard to claims 7-14 and 23-44, the claimed embodiments have been amended to more particularly claim output sources or switches that “are configured to simultaneously trigger a plurality of electrodes.” Furthermore, the limitations previously presented in the preamble of claim 7 have been incorporated into the body of the claim. Since Pohnfort does not teach or otherwise disclose the above-quoted claimed feature, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in regards to claims 7, 23, 26 and the respective dependant claims.


CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, Applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notifications of the same. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number set forth below.

If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

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